

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 8 and 9 have been rejected, and claims 5-7 have been objected to.

Claims 1-4 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seroussi et al. (US Patent No. 5,835,034) in view of Wu et al. (US Patent No. 5,903,676).

Claims 5-7 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 5-7 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 6. Claim 6 previously depended from claim 1, so there are no intervening claims.

As claim 1 now includes all of the limitation of claim 1 and the otherwise allowable claim 6, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claims 2-4 and 8 depend from claim 1 and should be ruled allowable for that reasons and for their own merits. These claims include all of the limitations of the base claim, which is not shown by the prior art, and further limitations also not shown by the prior art. It is therefore submitted that claims 2-4 and 8 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

Claim 9 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of claim 6, in different format. It is therefore submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art for the reasons as applied to claim 1 and allowance of this claim is requested.

Claims 5 and 7 were objected to for being based upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1, from which claim 5 depends directly, and from which claim 7 depends through claim 4, is now in allowable form. Withdrawal of the objection to these claims is requested.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence
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Signature

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